

## Patent claims

1. A method for ensuring the same order of messages in a plurality of data sinks (DS), a plurality of data sources (DQ) transmitting data messages with identical message contents to the data sinks (DS) in parallel and independently of one another, characterized in that the data sinks (DS) predefine for the data sources (DQ) a time window for the collection of the data messages, the data messages being sent when the time window is closed.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the time window is closed by means of an S<sub>ON</sub> message transmitted to the data sources (DQ) by the data sinks (DS), the S<sub>ON</sub> message simultaneously opening a reception window above the data sinks (DS).
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the reception window is closed by means of an S<sub>OFF</sub> message transmitted to the data sinks (DS) by the data sources (DQ).
4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that a consecutive token number is transmitted to the data source (DQ) with the S<sub>ON</sub> message from the data sinks (DS), and is sent back to the data sinks (DS) with the S<sub>OFF</sub> messages from the data sources (DQ).